

In opposition...to all the suggestions of the devil, the sole, simple, and sufficient answer is the word of God. This puts to flight all the powers of darkness. The Christian finds this to be true in his individual experience. It dissipates his doubts; it drives away his fears; it delivers him from the power of Satan.

Charles Hodge

The amazing thing is that everyone who reads the Bible has the same joyful thing to say about it. In every land, in every language, it is the same tale: where that Book is read, not with the eyes only, but with the mind and heart, the life is changed. Sorrowful people are comforted, sinful people are transformed, peoples who were in the dark walk in the light. Is it not wonderful to think that this Book, which is such a mighty power if it gets a chance to work in an honest heart, is in our hands today?

Amy Carmichael

The Word of God is creative. It is a hammer that crushes the hardness of our insubordination. It is medicine that heals the broken-hearted. And it is light that gives us guidance and hope on our way.

John Piper

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

August 29, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
David Bedsole, piano

WELCOME

Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Please use this time for prayer and meditation as we prepare to go before the living God in worship.

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 121*

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**All: From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

All: Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Pastor: We gather to adore the Triune God who is our help and our salvation.
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 164 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin, he sets the pris’ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen’d tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

CONFESSION

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 5:13-16*

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Heavenly Father, you are holy and righteous, infinite in your wisdom and justice, and you alone know how often we have sinned against you. We come before you confessing our sins, knowing that even our confession is incomplete. Have mercy on us. Lord Jesus, you lived the sinless life we couldn't live, and wouldn't live, and then you faced the judgment we deserved. Thank you for loving us. You have called us to take up our cross and follow you, but we often ignore your call. Please forgive us for desiring to imitate the world instead of being salt in it and for hiding the light of the gospel instead holding it up for the world to see. Please forgive us when think little of the good works you have prepared for us and fail to glorify our Father in heaven. Holy Spirit, help us to truly repent. In Jesus's name, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 Peter 2:21,24-25; Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 7:25*

Pastor: Hear the good news that is the power of God to salvation for all who believe in Jesus Christ and repent of their sins. Jesus Christ suffered for you. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

All: **All we like sheep have gone astray...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Pastor: Since Jesus, the Lamb of God, has been sacrificed for you and he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him as he always lives to make intercession for them, your sins are forgiven. May the peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 305 “Arise, My Soul, Arise”

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede,
his all-redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race, his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and “Father, Abba, Father!” cry.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus
Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
(John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 145 “The Spirit Breathes upon the Word”

The Spirit breathes upon the Word, and brings the truth to sight;
precepts and promises afford a sanctifying light, a sanctifying light.

A glory gilds the sacred page, majestic, like the sun:
it gives a light to every age; it gives, but borrows none, it gives, but borrows none.

The Hand that gave it still supplies the gracious light and heat:
his truths upon the nations rise; they rise, but never set, they rise, but never set.

Let everlasting thanks be thine for such a bright display
as makes a world of darkness shine with beams of heav’nly day, with beams of heav’nly day.

My soul rejoices to pursue the steps of him I love,
till glory breaks upon my view in brighter worlds above, in brighter worlds above.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Psalms 119:9-24*

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

¹²Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!

¹³With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

¹⁴In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

¹⁷Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.

¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

¹⁹I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!

²⁰My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

²¹You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments.

²²Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies.

²³Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

²⁴Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

All: **but the word of our God will stand forever.**

SERMON: “The Word that Provides: Protection”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: “Christ Is Mine Forevermore”

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good.
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name.
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war.
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson
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RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread
and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return
in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins are completely forgiven
through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on
the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who is
bodily now in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Riverwood Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you would prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the inner circle of the tray.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 94 “How Firm a Foundation” st. 1-4, 6

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

BENEDICTION

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Thy kingdom come, that earth’s despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

August 29 Lynn Tootle
August 30 Evie Mae Tulipan
September 3 Robert DeWitt
September 4 David Drinkard

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

COLLEGE LUNCHEON

All college students are invited to stick around after worship today for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to find out a little bit more about Riverwood.

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm.

CATECHISM

Catechism resumes this week Wednesday, September 1 from 3:30-5:00pm. It is for children 5-12 years of age. We will be covering the Ten Commandments this year. If you have any questions, please contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S GATHERING

Men of all ages are invited to a "Meat and Greet" this Saturday, September 4 @1 p.m. We will gather at the home of one of our members to fellowship around an array of grilled and smoked meat. The address is 1342 Downing Ridge, Tuscaloosa. Meat will be provided. Drinks and side dishes to share are welcomed. If you'd like, feel free to stick around and watch the Bama/Miami football game afterwards.

FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning next Sunday, September 5, our fall Sunday schedule will begin with **Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.** followed by **corporate worship at 10:30**. Covenant Kids and Youth Group will meet from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Ladies of all ages are invited to a women's brunch that will be held in the church fellowship hall on Saturday, September 11 @ 10 a.m. We hope this will be a time for nurturing past relationships and starting new ones.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, September 8, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate meeting
Sunday, October 31: Reformation Celebration

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2021

Operating Income:	\$251,430.93
Operating Expense*:	\$279,168.71
Net Income:	(\$27,737.78)
Designated gifts:	\$54,333.00
Building loan balance:	\$671,189.02

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*